Hearing Date and Time: August 5, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. (Prevailing Eastern Time) Objection Date and Time: July 31, 2009 at 4:00 p.m. (Prevailing Eastern Time)

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## UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

T		Core No. 00 12555 (IMD)
In re:	)	Case No. 08-13555 (JMP)
LEHMAN BROTHERS HOLDINGS INC.,	)	(Jointly Administered)
et al.,	)	
	)	
Debtors.	)	
	)	Judge James M. Peck

OBJECTION OF HEBRON ACADEMY TO DEBTORS' MOTION PURSUANT TO SECTION 105(A) OF THE BANKRUPTCY CODE AND GENERAL ORDER M-143 FOR AUTHORIZATION TO IMPLEMENT ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION PROCEDURES FOR AFFIRMATIVE CLAIMS OF DEBTORS UNDER DERIVATIVE CONTRACTS

TO THE HONORABLE JAMES M. PECK, UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY JUDGE:

Hebron Academy ("Hebron") submits this objection to the Debtors' Motion Pursuant to Section 105(A) of the Bankruptcy Code and General Order M-143 For Authorization to Implement Alternative Dispute Resolution Procedures For Affirmative Claims of Debtors Under Derivative Contracts [Docket No. 4453] (the "Motion"), and respectfully states as follows:

## **Background**

- 1. Hebron is a small private secondary educational institution located in Hebron, Maine.
- 2. In connection with its 2007 financing involving tax-exempt and taxable bonds issued by the Finance Authority of Maine, Hebron entered into two interest rate swap agreements (collectively, the "Swaps") with Lehman Brothers Special Financing Inc. ("LBSF"). The obligations of LBSF under the Swaps were guaranteed by Lehman Brothers Holding Inc. ("Holdings").
- 3. On September 15, 2008, Holdings filed for protection under Chapter 11 of the United States Bankruptcy Code (the "Code"), and LBSF soon followed, filing on October 3, 2008. Holdings and LBSF are currently functioning as debtors-in-possession under the Code.
- 4. The Swaps are both in the standard International Swaps and Derivatives Association, Inc. ("ISDA") 1992 form and provide, among other things, that Hebron has the right (but not the obligation) to designate an Early Termination Date in the event of the bankruptcy of either LBSF or Holdings.

## Response

5. As an initial matter, Hebron does not understand exactly what the Debtors propose to mediate. In several instances, the Motion refers to the Debtors' "affirmative claims" or "claims" under Derivative Contract with Recovery Potential. See Motion, ¶8, 12, 37. The Debtors do not explain what those claims are or whether, when, and how those claims might be formally asserted.

- 6. Hebron has performed all of its obligations under the Swaps. Although the Chapter 11 filings of LBSF and Holdings constituted Events of Default (as such term is used in the Swaps), thereby allowing Hebron the option (but not the obligation) to designate an Early Termination Date in respect of all outstanding transactions, LBSF has no such right. There is no adversary proceeding, contested matter, or other dispute to which the General Order M-143 could apply. Simply put, there is nothing to mediate. Neither the Debtors' belief that there currently is, or may be, value in certain derivatives, nor their desire to receive that value at this point, translates into a "dispute" for the purposes of General Order M-143. The cases cited by Debtors are inapposite, as both involved mediation ordered in the context of ongoing adversary proceedings. *See* Motion, at ¶ 38 (citing In re Enron Corp. et al., Case No. 01-16034 (ALG) (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. March 4, 2003) [Docket No. 9533] and (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. March 20, 2003) [Docket No. 9862]; In re Ames Department Stores, Inc., et al., Case No. 01-42217 (REG) (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. June 25, 2007) [Docket No. 3195]).
- 7. Further, Hebron submits that the Debtors' proposed ADR procedures are overly complex, unclear in certain respects, and punitive in other respects. For example, the Debtors propose that they be able to seek sanctions in the event that the mediator (presumably of the Debtors' choosing in the first instance) determines that a counterparty is not participating in good faith or is not cooperating. That is fundamentally inconsistent with the concept of a voluntary, non-binding mediation.
- 8. The Debtors propose that they be able to apply for sanctions or a judgment if a "Derivative Counterparty fails to respond . . ." *See* Motion, at ¶ 20. They do not, however, explain what the Counterparty must respond to, or when or how the response must be provided.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Hebron reserves all of its rights under the Swaps and applicable law, including, without limitation 11 U.S.C. § 560.

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9. The Debtors suggest that a counterparty's affirmative choice to participate in the

Mediation Stage would result in a loss of jury trial rights that may exist. See Motion, at ¶ 31.

Under the Debtors' proposed procedures, there is nothing elective about participation in the

Mediation Stage if the parties have not resolved the "dispute" during the Derivative

Notice/Response Stage. No party should suffer the forfeiture of potentially valuable rights, such

as the right to a jury trial, by participating in a non-binding mediation.

10. Hebron joins in and adopts the objections filed by EPCO Holdings, Inc. [Docket

No. 4532] and Asbury Atlantic, Inc. and Asbury-Solomons, Inc. [Docket No. 4540].

Conclusion

For all the reasons set forth herein, Hebron respectfully requests that this Court enter an

Order (i) denying the relief requested in the Motion or, in the alternative, providing that such

relief does not apply with respect to Hebron, and (ii) granting such other relief as is just and

adequate.

Dated: July 31, 2009

Portland, Maine

/s/ Michael A. Fagone

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## **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that I have served a copy of the foregoing Objection of Hebron Academy to Debtors' Motion Pursuant to Section 105(A) of the Bankruptcy Code and General Order M-143 for Authorization to Implement Alternative Dispute Resolution Procedures for Affirmative Claims of Debtors under Derivative Contracts on the following parties by overnight mail, or electronically through the Court's CM/ECF system on the 31<sup>st</sup> day of July 2009.

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